

HONORING BRAD BARNES' RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW AND RODEO

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Brad Barnes in his retirement from serving as President of the Stock Show and Rodeo in Fort Worth, Texas. The Stock Show and Rodeo is the city's oldest and largest annual event, gathering millions of visitors every year. Showcasing both professional rodeo athletes and thousands of kids from across Texas, this event continues to reflect Fort Worth's rich cultural heritage.

In his many years with the Stock Show and Rodeo, Mr. Barnes volunteered before becoming a full-time employee in 2004. During this time, the rodeo moved from the historic Will Rogers Coliseum to Dickies Arena. Payout winnings for contestants grew to 1.5 million dollars and expanded the attendance rate exponentially. Always looking ahead, he has prepared the initiative to renovate the Will Rogers Coliseum in pursuit of preserving its historical significance to Fort Worth.

Since 1985, premiums, scholarships, and grants for Texas youth have accumulated over 100 million dollars. Under the leadership of Mr. Barnes, the 2025 Junior Sale of Champions alone raised more than 10 million dollars. The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo represents the cultural heart of Fort Worth, starting from the early days on the Chisholm Trail driving cattle to now being a symbol of where "The West Begins." Mr. Barnes has worked tirelessly to preserve Fort Worth's connection to its origin, believing that without it, it will just be another city on the list of many in Texas.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Brad Barnes's humble commitment to the Fort Worth community. I wish the best to him and his family as they celebrate his retirement and continue to be committed members of the community.

RECOGNIZING JAMES MILLARD

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Millard for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

James has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like James, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to James's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate James Millard on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING MR. KEITH H. JOHNSON

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Keith H. Johnson. As Chief Keith Johnson prepares to retire this month, I rise to honor his distinguished career and service to the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System.

Chief Johnson is a fourth-generation firefighter who began his fire service in 1982. His career led him to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, where he ascended to the rank of Deputy Chief in 2009. After more than 30 years of service in Fairfax County, Chief Johnson was appointed as the Assistant Chief of Operations with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue and, later, the Chief of the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue System in 2018. He possesses both Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator certifications with the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

During his tenure, he led a department of nearly 500 career and more than 1,500 volunteer personnel, oversaw the implementation of a collective bargaining ordinance, created a 24 hour Operational Shift Commander program, and formed a behavioral health section. He also advocated for benefits and protections to include increased behavioral health benefits and cancer protections for first responders, as well as for the inclusion of fire sprinkler systems in residential homes.

Chief Johnson was recently named the Career Fire Chief of the Year in 2024. He continues to serve as Chair of the Governor's appointed Virginia Fire Services and on Virginia's Board of Housing and Community Development.

Congratulations to Chief Johnson on an exceptional career. I thank him for decades of service to our community, and I wish him well in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUENTS OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FOR THEIR WORK IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY

HON. KELLY MORRISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize several constituents in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. Their dedication to promoting democracy is to be commended. I recognize Sharon Billings, Caitlin Cahill, Keith Engel, Aditi Ginuga, Anne Leland, Cathy Olson, Dave Olson, Paula Ramaley, Cole Roepke, Adaline Shinkle, Brad Shinkle, Diane Sjolander, and Anita Smithson.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District are fortunate to have them as neighbors, friends, and community members.

RECOGNIZING CARLOS ALBERTO GUTIERREZ PACHECHO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carlos Alberto Gutierrez Pachecho for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Carlos has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Carlos, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Carlos's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Drake Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Carlos Alberto Gutierrez Pachecho on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING JEFF DEWITT'S RETIREMENT FROM THE FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jeffrey L. DeWitt on his retirement from the Fort Worth Fire Department after 37 years of dedication and service to the City of Fort Worth. Founded 152 years ago, the Fort Worth Fire Department is a nationally recognized agency with a rich history of serving and protecting the 13th-largest city in the nation.

Born and raised in Upstate New York, Mr. DeWitt moved to Texas as quickly as he could. He became one of the first paid firefighters with the Keller Fire Department in the early 1980s. He joined the Fort Worth Fire Department on May 6, 1988, as a full-time commissioned firefighter in Class 41. Over his career, he served in four stations, including the historic Downtown Station 1, where he was assigned on December 12, 1997. The following year, he was promoted to Engineer at Station 1. During this time, he had the honor of driving "The Big One," the largest engine at the Fort Worth Fire Department for 13 years—a fact his young daughters proudly shared, saying, "Dad drives the big truck downtown."

In addition to his many years with the Fort Worth Fire Department, he has spent nearly two decades instructing classes at the Fire Academy at Tarrant County College. As an instructor for both new recruits and continuing certification courses for commissioned firefighters, his positive impact extends to other fire departments across the State of Texas.

Now, as he retires from Station 35 in the critical Fort Worth Alliance Airport Corridor, Mr. DeWitt holds the distinction of being the department's senior-most engineer and a certified Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) firefighter.

Mr. DeWitt truly exemplifies the mission of the Fort Worth Fire Department. Throughout

his many years of service, he has worked tirelessly to protect others before himself. He will undoubtedly continue to embrace the spirit of a dedicated first responder and an engaged member of our Fort Worth community. I know he is looking forward to well-earned time with his family and first grandchild.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Jeffrey L. DeWitt's service to the Fort Worth Fire Department and his impact on keeping our community safe for the past 37 years. I wish

him and his family the very best as they celebrate his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to

vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 89, and YEA on Roll Call No. 90.